

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (New) A method of adhesive bonding a PVC surface, the method comprising:

cleaning a PVC surface with an aqueous alkaline composition comprising:

A) 2 to 30 wt. % of a compound having an alkaline reaction in an aqueous medium,

B) 1 to 30 wt. % of a complexing agent,

C) 5 to 40 wt. % of a compound with at least one hydroxyl group selected from the group consisting of alcohols and ethers of alcohols wherein the alcohol contains 3 to 12 carbon atoms,

D) 1 to 15 wt. % of a surfactant based on fatty alcohols,

E) 1 to 30 wt. % of a rinsing auxiliary agent, and

F) 0 to 8 wt. % of water-soluble colorants and builders; and

applying an adhesive to the cleaned PVC surface.

Claim 10 (New) The method of Claim 9 further comprising the step of pretreating the cleaned PVC surface prior to applying the adhesive.

Claim 11 (New) The method of Claim 10 wherein the pretreating step is selected from the group consisting of flame treating the cleaned PVC surface, plasma radiation treating the cleaned PVC surface and corona treating the cleaned PVC surface.

Claim 12 (New) The method of Claim 9 wherein the step of applying an adhesive comprises applying a moisture-reactive polyurethane melt adhesive.

Claim 13 (New) The method of Claim 9 wherein the step of cleaning a PVC surface comprises contacting the PVC surface with the aqueous alkaline composition for a period of from about 1 second to about 30 minutes.

Claim 14 (New) The method of Claim 9 wherein the step of cleaning a PVC surface comprises contacting the PVC surface with the aqueous alkaline composition at a temperature in the range of 10°C to 80°C.

Claim 15 (New) The method of Claim 9 wherein the compound with at least one hydroxyl group of component (C) of the aqueous alkaline composition is present at a concentration of 15 to 25 weight %.

Claim 16 (New) The method of Claim 9 wherein the compound having an alkaline reaction in an aqueous medium of component (A) of the aqueous alkaline composition is selected from the group consisting of NaOH, KOH, waterglass, ammonia, amines, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 17 (New): The method of Claim 9 wherein the compound having an alkaline reaction in an aqueous medium of component (A) of the aqueous alkaline composition is present at a concentration of 5 to 15 wt. %.

Claim 18 (New) The method of Claim 9 wherein the aqueous alkaline composition has a pH above 12.

Claim 19 (New) The method of Claim 9 wherein the aqueous alkaline composition has a pH of 13.5 to 14.0.

Claim 20 (New) The method of Claim 9 wherein the complexing agent of component (B) of the aqueous alkaline composition is selected from the group consisting of Na salts or ammonium salts of diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid, hydroxyethylenediaminetriacetic acid,

propylenediaminetetraacetic acid, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, nitrilotriacetic acid, citric acid, alanine diacetic acid, polyaspartic acid, methylglycidine diacetic acid, polycarboxylates and mixtures thereof.

Claim 21 (New): The method of Claim 9 wherein the complexing agent of component (B) of the aqueous alkaline composition is present at a concentration of 2 to 10 wt. %.

Claim 22 (New) The method of Claim 9 wherein the compound with at least one hydroxyl group of component (C) of the aqueous alkaline composition is selected from the group consisting of benzyl alcohol, phenoxyethanol, propylene glycol n-butyl ether, propylene glycol methyl ether, propylene glycol isobutyl ether, propylene glycol phenyl ether, dipropylene glycol methyl ether, tripropylene glycol methyl ether, ethyl diglycols, methyl diglycols, butyl glycol, butyl diglycol, ethylene glycol and mixtures thereof.

Claim 23 (New) The method of Claim 9 wherein the surfactant based on fatty alcohols of component (D) of the aqueous alkaline composition comprises fatty alcohols having 12 to 18 carbon atoms esterified with 3 to 50 ethylene oxide units, and, optionally 1 to 15 propylene oxide units.

Claim 24 (New) The method of Claim 9 wherein the surfactant based on fatty alcohols of component (D) of the aqueous alkaline composition is present at a concentration of 2 to 8 wt. %.

Claim 25 (New) The method of Claim 9 wherein the rinsing auxiliary agent of component (E) of the aqueous alkaline composition is selected from the group consisting of phosphates, cumene and toluene sulphonates, alkylbenzene sulphonates, alkane sulphonates, ester sulphonates, and phosphoric acid esters.